

office at Marlin-  
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E, EDITOR

BER 5, 1940

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In the east cattle were raised by the sweat of the brow, on high cost and high taxed land. In the west, with the buffalo gone, there was hardly end to possibilities of the number of wild cattle. There would be two roundups a year, In the spring to brand the calves; in the fall to cut out beef cattle for market. It is no wonder the east was forced out of the cattle business when came the competition of the boundless west.

As example of what is possible in wild cattle take the treeless plains of South America. In the 1550's a bull and seven cows were brought from Spain. From these sprang the millions and millions of wild cattle of the South American pampas. Except for the buffalo, the same condition would have prevailed in North America. There never was a time when the wild cattle of South America did not yield readily to domestication. For many generations they were hunted for their hides alone, as was the buffalo of the north. However, whenever it was considered worth while to corral wild cattle, it was found that in a short time they become accustomed to the control of man.

Australia and New Zealand had the same experience with

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Australia and New Zealand had the  
... same experience with range cattle.  
... It is small wonder that beef from the  
... west and the south and down under  
... made the eastern cattle raiser live  
... hard. But this eastern American is  
... a thrifty soul. Those who stayed at  
... home depended upon a diversity of  
... crops, and the others went west to  
... engage in the cattle business.

Back in the 1870's, Editor Horace  
... Greeley uttered some careless words  
... which became a slogan: "Go west  
... young man, grow up with the coun  
... try" Millions acted upon his advice  
... and when they went they went to stay  
... the result is a rich and populous west  
... The conditions in the west are more  
... nearly approaching those in the east  
... each year and so the handicap under  
... which the eastern cattle man has la  
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When the waves of buffalo receded  
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When the waves of buffalo receded  
from the western plains, the steer ad-  
vanced. Soon they had replaced the  
buffalo Then the Pocahontas county  
stockman found himself up against  
it. He could not even turn to the  
production of butter and cheese, as  
the cattlemen of New York and other  
states did. In those days nothing  
could be marketed from Pocahontas  
which could not walk out on its own  
feet to the rail head. The way out  
in these blue grass valleys was found.  
By taking care a domesticated animal  
could be raised that commanded a  
far better price than the range cattle  
of the west They set about to im-  
prove the breed; Thus export cattle  
were produced which brought a living  
for the care expended.

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Let me here interline the remark that about a quarter of a century back changes began to come about in the economic scheme of world affairs. and the demand for big export cattle declined and went out. It marked decline in the quality of our cattle, so carefully and laboriously brought up to such high standard of excellence in the two generations following the war between the states

In Tuckahoe Virginia, where the winters are mild, there persisted the practice of raising unimproved cattle. The penny royal bull of the old days was a term of reproach in grazing countries, and referred to the class of cattle found in the flat lands of Eastern Virginia. Another term I have

have not heard in years was a four old yearling, meaning a steer four years of age and the size of a yearling. Another illustration of the cheap cattle of the lowlands was that a steer was so small that he could be salted in his horns.

The existence of low grade Tuckahoe cattle was a constant menace to the breeders of the mountain valleys of the Shenandoah. Green